

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A system for enabling electronic commerce, said system comprising a network host, wherein the network host is adapted to provide a service to a network client using a network, wherein the service is provided in exchange for payment resolved by a financial resolution center connected to the network, and wherein the network host and the network client are network members, and wherein identities of the network members are known only to the financial resolution center.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the network members are determined by the financial resolution center.

Claim 3 (original): The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the network client and the network host maintain financial accounts with the financial resolution center.

Claim 4 (original): The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the network comprises a heterogeneous network.

Claim 5 (original): The system as recited in claim 4, wherein the heterogeneous network comprises a network of computational devices.

Claim 6 (original): The system as recited in claim 4, wherein the heterogeneous network is absent information sent thereacross for maintaining secure access thereto.

Claim 7 (original): The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the network of computational devices comprises a network of multiple platforms.

Claim 8 (original): The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the financial resolution center comprises a computational device.

Claim 9 (original): The system as recited in claim 8, wherein the financial resolution center comprises:

a processor;

a storage device;

a certificate authority program, wherin the certificate authority program is adapted to provide network membership; and

an accounting program, wherein the accounting program is adapted to reconcile network member accounts.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the financial resolution center further comprises a monitoring program, and wherein the monitoring program is adapted to track and record financial activities of the network member members.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 10, wherein the network member comprises members comprise an agent, wherein an the agent is adapted to execute a process, and wherein providing a the service comprises executing a the process.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the financial resolution center is further adapted to extend credit to the network members.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 10, wherein the accounting program is further adapted to reconcile financial accounts for the network members.

Claim 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method of enabling electronic commerce, said method comprising:

administering financial accounts for a network client and a network host, wherein the network client and the network host are network members;

receiving a financial charge from the network host;

assigning the charge to the network client;

resolving the charge; and

maintaining confidentiality as to the an identity of the network client and the network host.

Claim 16 (original): The method as recited in claim 15, further comprising assigning network membership.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 16, wherein assigning the network membership comprises issuing authentication identifiers.

Claim 18 (original): The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the authentication identifiers comprise a public/private key pair.

Claim 19 (original): A computer-readable carrier medium, comprising first programming instructions executable on a computational device for presenting a financial charge to a financial resolution center, wherein the financial charge is levied against a network client, and wherein the network client remains unknown to the computational device.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A computer-readable carrier medium, comprising:

first programming instructions executable on a computational device for receiving a financial charge from a network host;

second programming instructions executable on the computational device for assigning the financial charge to a network client; and

third programming instructions executable on the computational device for resolving the financial charge; and

fourth programming instructions executable on the computational device for maintaining confidentiality as to an identity of the network client and the network host.

Claim 21 (cancelled):

Claim 21, second occurrence (cancelled, re-presented below to correct numbering)

Claim 22 (currently amended): The carrier medium as recited in claim 21 20, wherein resolving the financial charge comprises modifying the financial accounts for the network client and the network host.

Claim 23 (original): A computer-usable carrier medium, comprising first programming instructions executable on a computational device for receiving a financial charge from a financial resolution center, wherein the financial charge is levied against the computational device, wherein the financial charge is to be credited toward a network host, and wherein the network host remains unknown to the computational device.

Claim 24 (re-presented - formerly dependent claim 21, second occurrence): The carrier medium as recited in claim 20, further comprising fifth programming instructions executable on the computational device for maintaining financial accounts for the network host and the network client.